GENEALOGIES OF THE MATHESONS

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The manuscript genealogies of the Mathesons described in the previous paper on the traditions of the clan[1] are derived almost entirely from the oral tradition of a century to a century and a half ago. Considering that this is so, they provide us with a remarkable store of genealogical information, taking us back in some detail to the beginning of the seventeenth century. They are not, however, free from error. Sometimes statements are made which cannot be accepted on chronological or other grounds; and sometimes, also, they are at variance among themselves. The purpose of this paper is to point out some errors and omissions and to show how these might be amended.

In the previous paper reference was made to the dearth of information about the history and genealogy of the clan in the sixteenth century, and attention was drawn to the impossibility, on chronological grounds, of accepting the traditional account of the ancestry of Murchadh Buidhe, who is on record in 1556. It may be recalled that his father's name is given as Dubhghall Ruadh and the latter's father's name as Iain Dubh (killed in 1539), who was supposed to be a son of Alasdair mac Ruaidhri, chief during the rebellion of a Donald of the Isles. The evidence suggested that there was confusion as between Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh, contemporary with Donald of the Isles who fought at Harlaw in 1411, and another Alasdair—mac Ruaidhri—in whose time there was a rebellion of another Donald of the Isles, namely Domhnall Dubh, from 1501 to 1506.

For our present purpose the point to note is that the genealogies give the following sequence as the names of chiefs of the clan down to Murchadh Buidhe: Alasdair, Iain Dubh, Dubhghall Ruadh, Murchadh Buidhe. Now there is a docu-

ment of the period in which we find the first three of these names as the names of father, son and grandson. This is a decreet of the Lords of Council, dated 12th May, 1492, to David Ross of Balnagown, sheriff of Ross, calling upon him to distrain the following persons, their lands and goods, to the avail of the plunder taken by them from Hugh Rose of Kilravock's lands of Ardmeanach (i.e. the Black Isle), including Redcastle:—William Forbes in Strathglass, Welland Chesholme of Comar, Murquho Makcoule, Duncan Lauchlansoun, Johne Duff Makalester, Johne Johne Duf sone, Alexander Makduf sone, Johne Roy Makanvoy, Dougale Makaneduff, Rory Mule Maccoule, Alexander Finlaysoun, Auchaneroy Kenyeoch, Duncan Maklauchlane in the bray of Ross, Rury Williamsoun in Moy, Donald Makanedoy, Kenyeoch M'Conleif, Donald M'Conleif, Johne Dow Makalester, and Rury Gar makteir Makmurquhy.[2] Two names appear to be inadvertently listed twice, probably because the list was made up from more than one source of information: Duncan Maklauchlane should doubtless be equated with Duncan Lauchlansoun and Johne Dow Makalester with Johne Duff Makalester. A number of the persons named can be identified,[3] and there are some names that appear in other contemporary documents.[4] What specially concerns us at present is the fact that of the seventeen persons in the list five consist of a father, Johne Duff Makalester, and four sons, John, Alexander, Dougal or Dugald, and Donald. So that here we have evidence for a father, son and grandson—Alasdair, Iain Dubh and Dubhghall; and these names are identical with those of the Matheson chiefs preceding Murchadh Buidhe as contained in the genealogies. Indeed, there are grounds for believing that they are, not only the same names, but the same persons.

In the first place, there is the mention in the list of Auchaneroy Kenyeoch. In the previous paper on clan traditions it was shown that the Mathesons appear more than once on record in close association with the MacKenzies of Gairloch, and Auchaneroy Kenyeoch is Hector MacKenzie (Eachann Ruadh), ancestor of the Gairloch family. Then again, Duncan Lauchlansoun, Kenyeoch M'Conleif and Donald M'Conleif (i.e. Macleay) are witnesses in 1494 to a

protocol of John de Vaux, sheriff of Inverness, together with, among others, Sir Dugall Ruryson, vicar of Urquhart, who was a Matheson, and afterwards Prior of Beauly; the protocol being in confirmation of a grant of lands to the above Hector MacKenzie of Gairloch.[5]

As to the identity of Johne Duff Makalester, it is important to establish an approximate chronological framework. If his father was Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh, one of the chiefs who appeared before James I at Inverness in 1428, he must have been elderly in 1492, and this accords with the fact that by then he had four sons old enough to be associated with him in a foray to the Black Isle. As shown in the previous paper on clan traditions, the chief of 1428 was slain in battle ten years later with four of his sons. At least one other son might have survived because he was too young to take the field. Thus, on the assumption that Johne Duff Makalester was a son of Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh, his date of birth could be as late as c. 1430, and those of his sons as late as c. 1460-75. Even so, however, he could not be the same as the Iain Dubh who fell defending Eilean Donnan Castle against the MacDonalds in 1539. But his son John could. Bearing the same name, the two might easily be confused in oral tradition; especially if, as is possible, the son also was known as Iain Dubh in later life. (Another apparent example of two successive Johns being telescoped into one will be noticed hereafter.)

According to the genealogies, when Iain Dubh was slain in 1539, he was succeeded by his son Dugald (Dubhghall Ruadh), and he by his son Murchadh Buidhe. Now this cannot be so: as pointed out in the previous paper on the traditions of the Mathesons, there are too many generations confined within too short a space of time. However, the difficulty is resolved if we suppose that Iain Dubh and Dubhghall Ruadh are the same as John and Dugald, sons of Johne Duff Makalester on record in 1492. This would mean that Dubhghall Ruadh who succeeded as chief in 1539 was, not a son, but a brother of his predecessor. And, of course, if Murchadh Buidhe was Murchadh mac Ruaidhri, as contemporary record indicates,[6] he cannot have been a son of Dubhghall Ruadh. What the evidence suggests, in fact, is that the genealogists give the names of the four chiefs of

the clan in correct sequence, except that two successive Johns have been run together, and that where tradition erred was in representing this sequence as a succession of father followed by son in every case ; and also in confusing Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh, chief in 1428, with Alasdair mac Ruaidhri, who flourished at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

But, if all this is so, the beginning of the sixteenth century is now fully taken over by chiefs other than Alasdair mac Ruaidhri ; he cannot be placed in the sequence. There is no reason to doubt that Alasdair mac Ruaidhri was the ancestor of the leading Matheson families in Lochalsh in the seventeenth century. But how could he be chief of the clan if in his time Iain Dubh and Iain Dubh's sons John and Dugald followed each other in that position ?

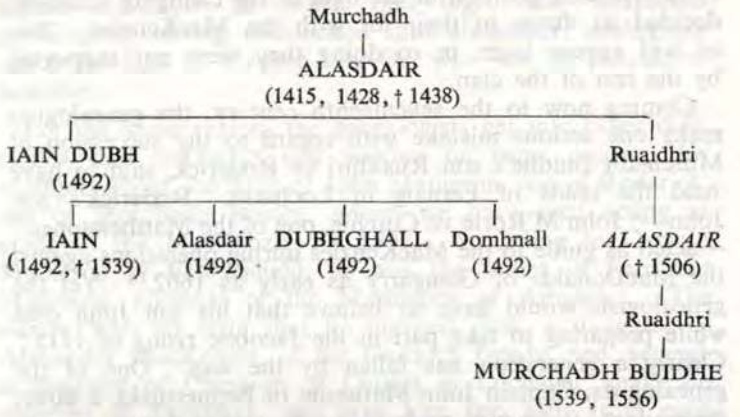
The answer is suggested by the fact that in 1539 we have the spectacle of one Matheson clansman, Iain Dubh, defending Eilean Donnan Castle, and another, Murchew Rodorici Mantochson, identified as Murchadh Buidhe, attacking it. This can only mean that there was a split in the clan, one faction, represented by Iain Dubh, adhering to the MacKenzie possessors of Eilean Donnan, and another to the MacDonalds, with Murchadh Buidhe as their leading figure. And there is reason to suppose that this state of affairs extended back for some considerable time. The tradition about Alasdair mac Ruaidhri indicates that he was a rebel, accused as such before the king, and executed in Edinburgh : a tradition which, referred to its historical setting, means that Alasdair mac Ruaidhri took part with the MacDonalds in the rebellion of Domhnall Dubh during the years 1501-1506. That this is the correct interpretation is suggested by something else in the traditional account of him. In the previous paper on clan traditions it was pointed out that there is no word of Alasdair mac Ruaidhri being oppressed by the MacLeods of Lewis when, as tradition has it, they overran Lochalsh and quartered mercenaries there. What did not come to mind was that the MacLeods of Lewis also were involved in the rebellion of 1501-1506 ;[7] so that Alasdair mac Ruaidhri should be seen as the leader of that party in the Matheson clan who made common cause with them. This must be why, in traditions relating to the feud with the MacLeods, it is always Iain Dubh who leads the clan

in battle against them. Alasdair mac Ruaidhri, on the other hand, is represented as fighting, not the MacLeods, but a certain Earl (Morair), absurdly identified as an Earl of Sutherland; but in reality this must have been the Earl of Huntly (Morair Hunndaidh), who was in command of the forces sent to suppress the rebellion in support of Domhnall Dubh.[8] The clan shennachies, of course, give Alasdair the victory; but at the same time there was the tradition that he was captured and executed. They also say that his widow married a MacLeod, which may well be true. Where they are mistaken is in representing Iain Dubh as her son—just one more error that arose from confusing Alasdair mac Ruaidhri with Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh.

Thus, the situation in the first half of the sixteenth century seems to have been that there were two opposing factions within the clan: the one, led by Iain Dubh and his sons Iain and Dubhghall Ruadh, adhering to the MacKenzie chiefs, and the other, led by Alasdair mac Ruaidhri and Murchadh Buidhe, to the MacDonalds (and their allies the MacLeods of Lewis).

In the end the MacDonald interest prevailed. As we have seen, John Matheson lost his life defending Eilean Donnan Castle in 1539, and, according to tradition, his successor Dubhghall Ruadh was murdered by the MacDonalds of Glengarry. Thereafter Murchadh Buidhe succeeded in establishing himself as chief. There may have been various reasons for his success. But one of the most weighty must surely have been that just about this time the MacDonalds became paramount in Lochalsh, Alexander McEan McAlister of Glengarry obtaining a crown charter of extensive lands there on 6th March, 1538/9.[9] There can be little doubt that Murchadh Buidhe acceded to the chiefship as nominee and *protégé* of the MacDonalds, and not necessarily because he had the best claim in other respects. As to his true place in the genealogy of the family, we have seen the evidence for supposing that he was by patronymic Murchadh mac Ruaidhri; and the way in which his later progeny confused Alasdair mac Ruaidhri and Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh suggests that he was descended from them both—a grandson, probably, of the former and great-great-grandson of the latter. The relationship between the chiefs of the clan during

this period could in that case be shown in diagram as follows, with the chiefs' names printed in capitals, including that of Alasdair mac Ruaidhri, as a sort of rival chief, in italics:



As shown in the paper on the traditions of the clan, the sons of Murchadh Buidhe forswore their allegiance to the MacDonalds of Glengarry in the last decade of the sixteenth century. This must have been an event of some importance, but tradition passes over it in silence. However, the indications are that this change of front coincided with a change in the balance of power in Lochalsh as between the MacKenzies and the MacDonalds. Just as Murchadh Buidhe's accession to the chiefship followed upon a charter of lands in Lochalsh to Alexander MacDonald of Glengarry, so now the position of his sons was affected in a similar manner. Angus MacDonald of Glengarry had a charter as late as 1574.[10] But the MacKenzies were determined to oust the MacDonalds, and this was the real cause of the feud which commenced about 1580. The fortunes of war fluctuated during the next twenty years, but the MacKenzies were gradually establishing a foothold in Lochalsh otherwise than on the field of battle. On 4th February, 1591/2, Colin MacKenzie of Kintail received a crown charter of the church lands of Lochalsh, with the advowson of the parish church ;[11] and finally the MacDonalds had to accept defeat when, on 17th March, 1607, Kenneth MacKenzie of Kintail had a crown charter of their lands in

Lochalsh, resigned in his favour by Donald mac Angus of Glengarry and Alexander, his oldest son and heir apparent.[12] It may be surmised that the sons of Murchadh Buidhe, forced to review their position in the light of the changing situation, decided to throw in their lot with the MacKenzies. But, as will appear later, in so doing they were not supported by the rest of the clan.

Coming now to the seventeenth century, the genealogists make one serious mistake with regard to the succession of Murchadh Buidhe's son Ruaidhri or Roderick, said to have held the lands of Fernaig in Lochalsh. Roderick's son John—" John M'Rorie vc Curchie, one of the Matthewsones " —acted as guide to the MacKenzies during operations against the MacDonalds of Glengarry as early as 1602.[13] Yet the genealogists would have us believe that his son John died while preparing to take part in the Jacobite rising of 1715 ! Clearly a generation has fallen by the way. One of the genealogists, Captain John Matheson of Bennetsfield, a direct descendant, is known to have made use of family papers dating from the period in question,[14] and the most natural explanation of the error is that there were *three* successive Johns who were not sufficiently distinguished from one another in the available documents—another example of the genealogical confusion that is liable to occur when a father and son bear the same name. Not only may we postulate a missing John in the present instance, but there is good reason to suppose that he is found in contemporary record. On 9th January, 1660, Alexander MacKenzie of Hilton gives his bond (see Appendix II) that he will pay and deliver to the account of John Matheson, chamberlain of Lochalsh, all the loss of Lochalsh, that is, presumably, outstanding arrears of rent and other dues. It would appear that at this time Hilton was demitting office as chamberlain and John Matheson taking over from him. The witnesses are Mr. Donald Macrae and Alexander Matheson in Auchindarroch, the former apparently the Rev. Donald Macrae, minister of Kintail, who was married to Hilton's sister.[15] And there seems to have been still another close connection between persons mentioned in the document. MacKenzie genealogies show that an aunt of Hilton's married John Matheson in Lochalsh, known as Iain Og,[16] ancestor of the Attadale

family, and there can be little doubt that it is the same John Matheson who is a party to this bond; if, as has been suggested, he had the same name as his father, he would almost inevitably be called Iain Og. The Matheson genealogists, having overlooked him altogether, mistakenly attach the lady to another Iain Og, who will be considered hereafter.

For the same reason, the genealogists get into other difficulties, and contradict one another on some points; for example, about the issue of John Matheson, son of Roderick, son of Murchadh Buidhe, whom we have seen acting as guide to the MacKenzies in 1602. According to Captain Matheson of Bennetsfield, he was the father of Farquhar Matheson, ancestor of the Mathesons of Attadale. The others, who all state that he married, first, a daughter of Alexander MacKenzie, of the Gairloch family, and, second, a daughter of Cameron of Callart in Lochaber, make no mention of Farquhar, and give him two sons from each marriage. There is now documentary evidence for three of these sons, and we have a Gaelic verse giving the pedigree of the fourth: (1) John, identified as party to the bond of 1660; (2) Alexander, ancestor of the Iomaire family, on record in Erbusaig in 1679, and possibly the same as Alexander Matheson in Auchindarroch who witnesses the bond; (3) Murdoch, ancestor of the Glasnamuclach family, whose son Ewen is on record in 1679 in Achmore, of which Glasnamuclach was part; (4) Roderick, subject of the verse—

Ruaidhri Beag mac Iain 'ic Ruaidhri
'ic Mhurchaidh Bhuidhe,
dha math a thig clogad cruadhach
is pìc iubhair,
bheireadh creach a tìr a nàmhaid
gun aon umhail.[17]

(Little Roderick, son of John, son of Roderick,
son of Murchadh Buidhe,
helmet of steel befits him well
and bow of yew;
he would bring spoil from enemy country,
and make light of it.)

As already seen, it was apparently John Matheson (Iain Og), chamberlain of Lochalsh and party to the bond of 1660, who married a daughter of John MacKenzie, fourth of Hilton, and he probably represents the missing generation before John Matheson (Iain Mór) of Bennetsfield who is said to have died in 1715. When the latter purchased the estate of Bennetsfield in the Black Isle, he was succeeded in Fernaig by Farquhar Matheson, ancestor of the Attadale family and the baronets of Lochalsh. The genealogists are in considerable disarray with regard to the antecedents of this Farquhar. As we have seen, Captain Matheson of Bennetsfield makes him a son of John, son of Roderick, son of Murchadh Buidhe, which rather stretches the imagination chronologically. The other genealogists, natives of Lochalsh, were better informed. They knew that by patronymic Farquhar Matheson was Fearchar mac Alasdair mhic Iain Oig. But, once more, not being aware of Iain Og, identified as party to the bond of 1660, they derive his descent from the other Iain Og who is reserved for discussion later. In doing so, not only do they blunder in a chronological sense, but they would have us believe that Farquhar Matheson succeeded John Matheson of Bennetsfield in Fernaig on the strength of being a second cousin once removed. The only Iain Og who makes sense, chronologically, as Farquhar's grandfather is John Matheson, identified as party to the bond of 1660 ; and it also makes better sense, as far as Fernaig is concerned, to suppose that the nephew succeeded the uncle. Farquhar Matheson had not yet gone to Fernaig in 1694. In that year Alexander Matheson and Farquhar Matheson—he and his father, presumably—are on record as joint-tacksmen of Balmacara ; and his brothers Murdoch and John (ancestor of the Achtaytoralan family) also appear to be in the list, the one in Craig and the other in Auchnacloich. Farquhar Matheson's name is entered for Fernaig in the Lochalsh rental of 1718. He was still alive in 1723,[18] but his son was served heir to him in the following year.[19]

Now we come to the other Iain Og. As has been noted, the fact that there were at least two of them gave rise to considerable confusion in the traditional genealogies. By way of proof that there was more than one Iain Og, it may be sufficient to mention that, as will be shown, Murdoch

Matheson, by patronymic Murchadh mac Dhubhghaill mhic Iain Oig, is on record in Lewis as early as 1658—too early for him to be in the same generation as Farquhar Matheson of Fernaig ; and this date also makes it difficult to agree with the genealogists in regarding this Iain Og as a son of Dugald (Dubhghall an Oir), son of Murchadh Buidhe. As shown in the previous paper on the traditions of the clan, there are good reasons for identifying him as John, son of Murchadh Buidhe, on record in 1600 and 1603. He had two sons, Dugald (Dubhghall mac Iain Oig), of whom hereafter, and Duncan (Donnchadh mac Iain Oig) ; and we must pause at the latter's name to consider what, in a chronological sense, is an error of some enormity.

The genealogists unite in identifying Donnchadh mac Iain Oig with a clansman known as Donnchadh an Teampuill. The latter was so called because he set fire to the church of Lochalsh when a band of MacLeods took refuge there after defeat in battle. The feud with the MacLeods is placed by the genealogists themselves before the time of Murchadh Buidhe ; yet they represent Donnchadh mac Iain Oig as Murchadh Buidhe's great-grandson ! Donnchadh an Teampuill, in fact, lived in the first half of the sixteenth century ; we know this from references to an exploit of his son, known as Coinneach nan Saighead, during the siege of Chanonry Castle in 1573.[20] It is astonishing that the genealogists should have made this mistake. Not only was it wide of the mark in time, but also in space. They themselves tell us that Donnchadh an Teampuill was expelled from Lochalsh for his sacrilegious conduct, and that his descendants lived in Strathbran and other parts far to the east of Lochalsh. This one cardinal error gave rise to others of a subsidiary kind. For example, Murdoch Matheson, bard to William, fifth Earl of Seaforth, born and brought up in Lochalsh on the genealogists' own showing, is said to have been descended from Donnchadh an Teampuill. Captain Matheson, Dornie, is no doubt reporting a reliable tradition when he writes that the bard was a son of Alexander, son of Donnchadh mac Iain Oig. But he too falls into the error of identifying Donnchadh mac Iain Oig with Donnchadh an Teampuill, and of thinking that the former's son Kenneth was Coinneach nan Saighead. Once the error has been seen for what it is, it

can be stated with some confidence that the Matheson bard was descended, not from Donnchadh an Teampuill, but from Donnchadh mac Iain Oig.

One of the surprising features of the genealogies is the poor quality of the information about descendants of Dugald (Dubhghall an Oir), son of Murchadh Buidhe, who held the lands of Balmacara, and is on record as chamberlain of Lochalsh in 1631.[21] The writers know that he had a son Murdoch, for whom there is documentary evidence.[22] But they also state that he had a son Iain Og, father of Dubhghall mac Iain Oig, Donnchadh mac Iain Oig and Alasdair mac Iain Oig. The last named was ancestor of the Attadale family, and we have seen who he must have been—a son of Iain Og, on record as party to the bond of 1660. As to the other two alleged sons, reference has already been made to the grounds for believing that they were sons of John, son of Murchadh Buidhe. Of course, it is still possible that Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall an Oir) had a son John who may have been known as Iain Og. To this question we shall return.

In the meantime let us see what is known of Murdoch Matheson, who succeeded his father Dugald (Dubhghall an Oir) in Balmacara. He is found on record there at various dates from 1631 to 1681.[23] There is documentary evidence to show that he had a son Dugald: he was served heir to his father.[24] The genealogists have no knowledge of Dugald, and this hardly inspires confidence. But there is some excuse. Dugald Matheson left Balmacara, and his descendants lived beyond the confines of Lochalsh, thus leaving sources of information less readily available. In 1686 Dugald Matheson is described as living in Applecross.[25] He married Giles (Sìlis), daughter of Alexander MacLeod of Raasay,[26] but with what issue, if any, remains uncertain. The authors of the Tiree-Manchester MS. history of the clan knew of a Dugald Matheson in Applecross, who had a son Murdoch (Murchadh Ruadh), and they give some account of the latter's descendants.[27] They think that his ancestor may have been Alexander, father of Murdoch Matheson, the bard. But this is the merest guess, and it is much more likely that here we have the descendants of the above Dugald Matheson, on record in Applecross in 1686.

Part of the confusion arose from the occurrence of the name Dugald so often among the Mathesons. As an example, the genealogists were aware of a certain Dugald Matheson, known as Dubhghall Og, but were in disagreement as to whether he was a son or a grandson of Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall an Oir), son of Murchadh Buidhe. Captain Matheson, Dornie, identifies him as a son of Murdoch, son of Dubhghall an Oir, and gives an account of his descendants in Lochalsh. But, as we have seen, this was a different Dugald, who moved to Applecross and left no descendants in Lochalsh. What, then, of Dubhghall Og, who, according to Captain Matheson, had a son John, father of Roderick (Ruaidhri Beag) ? Here a few entries abstracted from lists of tenants in Lochalsh may be of service. In 1679 John mc ouill vick ean (Iain mac Dhubhghaill mhic Iain) is tenant in Auchindarroch. In 1718 one of two tenants in Auchindarroch is Rory mc Ean vic Coull (Ruaidhri mac Iain mhic Dhubhghaill), presumably his son, and it will be noticed that the patronymic corresponds exactly in its names to the names given by Captain Matheson. Furthermore, in the 1718 list one of the tenants in Erbusaig is inadvertently entered twice, first as John Matheson alias mc Coul vic ean oig (mac Dhubhghaill mhic Iain Oig), and again as John mc uil oig (Iain mac Dhubhghaill Oig). He is probably the same as John mc ouill vick ean who is tenant in Auchindarroch in 1679 and John mc coull oig in Plockton in 1694. If so, the genealogists would appear to be right in stating that Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall an Oir) had a son John known as Iain Og. The trouble was that the name Iain Og appeared so often in the patronymics of descendants that they failed to sort out the persons in question correctly ; and so, as we have seen, Iain Og, son of Dubhghall an Oir, was given the wrong wife (Hilton's daughter), and three sons, Dugald, Duncan and Alexander, who did not belong to him at all. The evidence now given suggests that Dubhghall an Oir did have a son known as Iain Og, but we know nothing of his wife or family, except that he was almost certainly the father of Dubhghall Og, some of whose descendants were accounted for by Captain Matheson, Dornie, and are enumerated in the published history of the clan.[28]

Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall mac Iain Oig) and his brother

Duncan (Donnchadh mac Iain Oig) have been identified already as sons of John, son of Murchadh Buidhe. The genealogists give fairly full information about the descendants of Duncan, but of Dugald's they know very little; and here again the reason is that, while Duncan's descendants were numerous in Lochalsh, Dugald's had to be sought farther afield. In the account of them given in what follows space is lacking to carry the story down in detail to the present day, or to include the many anecdotes preserved by oral tradition. As far as the bare genealogical facts are concerned, particulars of the later generations can be ascertained from the various parish registers and census returns. We may begin, as the third in descent from Murchadh Buidhe, with:

III—Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall mac Iain Oig). He married a daughter of Murdoch MacKenzie, third of Achilty,[29] with issue:

(1) John, who, according to the genealogists, settled in Strath, Skye. But they are mistaken.[30] John Matheson was tacksman of Kilvourie (Coille Mhùiridh), now Hartfield, in Applecross.[31] He married the second daughter of William MacKenzie, first of Shieldaig.[32] He is on record in 1678,[33] but may have been dead by 1684, in which year his son Kenneth has a decreet of adjudication of Assynt and other lands in Easter Ross.[34] Kenneth Matheson left no male heir, but he had a daughter Catherine, who married John, only son of Murdoch Matheson, tacksman of Auchindarroch in Lochalsh.[35] He also had a brother Murdoch, who had a son William,[36] but by 1705, as will appear below, there were no surviving descendants in the male line. These Mathesons of Kilvourie were "coalds" (Gaelic *comhaltan*), that is to say foster-relatives, of the MacKenzies of Applecross, some of whose children were brought up in their family, a fact to which there are allusions in contemporary correspondence.[37]

(2) Murdoch, of whom next (as IV).

Dugald Matheson appears to have left no sons in Lochalsh, and it is possible, as will be suggested, that he did not live there himself.

IV—Murdoch Matheson (Murchadh mac Dhubhghaill mhic Iain Oig). The genealogists inform us that he settled in

Lewis, and this is confirmed by the appearance of his name on record there in 1658.[38] According to the tradition of descendants (including the present writer's family) he came to Lewis when the MacKenzies were fighting to gain possession of the island from the MacLeods. This tradition is to be taken together with the account given by the genealogists of Lord Kintail's conquest of Lewis. We read in the Tiree-Manchester MS. that he was accompanied by upwards of one hundred Mathesons, of whom the following are named: Ruaidhri Beag (subject of the verse previously quoted) and his brother Murdoch, Iain Glas Mór mac Dhonnchaidh mhic Iain Oig and his brother Kenneth, Iain mac Alasdair mhic Iain Oig ; [39] and there was also Iain Maol mac a' Ghobhainn (whose name appears in the list of 1679). Iain Glas Mór and his brother Kenneth were first cousins of Murdoch Matheson, and so it is very likely that he too was one of this band. But it should be noted that the traditions of both Lochalsh and Lewis are at fault chronologically in regarding this expedition as the one which first established the MacKenzies in Lewis at the beginning of the seventeenth century (1611). This cannot be so. However, it is known that in 1654 the Earl of Seaforth led his forces to Lewis to attack the Cromwellian garrison in Stornoway, and that the " old natives " (i.e. the MacLeods and their dependent clans), seeing an opportunity in his ill success, revolted against him and had to be subdued.[40] There was also a renewal of clan warfare in the island ; and this is reflected in traditions about fighting at that time between the MacAulays and their old enemies the Morisons.[41] The tradition about the hundred and more Mathesons who took part in an expedition to Lewis should be viewed in this context.

Unlike his cousins, Murdoch Matheson did not return to the mainland. According to the tradition in the writer's family, he came to Lewis, not from Lochalsh, but from Achnasheen, at the western end of Strathbran. It may be that his father also lived in that region, which was part of the parish of Contin.[42] We have seen that he was married to MacKenzie of Achilty's daughter, and Achilty is in the parish of Contin. Achnasheen was on the Davochmoluag estate ; [43] and the reason why Murdoch Matheson remained in Lewis may have been that this estate was confiscated on

Cromwell's orders and a garrison put into Davochmoluag House.[44] In these circumstances, for one who had taken part in the attack on Cromwell's garrison in Stornoway, the prudent course would have been not to return.

There may also have been inducements for Murdoch Matheson to stay in Lewis. Murdoch MacKenzie (Murchadh Mór mac 'ic Mhurchaidh), fifth of Achilty, who lived on Eilean Chaluim Chille in Loch Erisort,[45] was his first cousin, and successive members of the Achilty family were chamberlains (i.e. factors) of Lewis. (In a song in praise of his great-grandson Murchadh Mór is called *ceannard Leódhuis*.[46]) It may be that he was chamberlain at this time. In any case, we know that several close relatives of his got lands in Lewis, and it is likely that he had some influence in the matter. As we have seen, Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall mac Iain Oig) married a daughter of Murdoch MacKenzie, third of Achilty. Another daughter married Rorie Clerk (Ruaidhri Cléireach), of the Maclennans of Lochbroom, apparently to be identified as Rory Clerk, on record in Achtadonill (now Dundonell) in 1635;[47] and John Maclennan, otherwise Iain mac Ruaidhri Chléirich, presumably their son, became tacksman of Kirkibost in Bernera.[48] Still another daughter married Donnchadh mac Choinnich mhic Iain,[49] which was the patronymic of Duncan MacIver, tacksman of Carloway.[50] So Murdoch Matheson fits into the picture as one of a number of immigrants who received favoured treatment in Lewis because of close kinship with the Achilty family.

In Uig, where he was traditionally known as Murchadh Mór, and recognised as the original settler, Ardroil was held to be his first place of abode, but it was said that after a time he moved to Kneep[51] (perhaps on the death of his father-in-law, of whom below). George MacKenzie (Seòras Mór Ma' Choinnich) settled in Uig at Baile na Cille about the same time, a place that gave him the benefit of sanctuary.[52] And it may be significant that Ardroil was probably within the girth of another ancient place of worship in the adjacent townland of Carnish known as Teampull Chairthnis.[53] In the latter part of his life Murdoch Matheson was tacksman of Arinish,[54] near Stornoway. He appears to have been married before he came to Lewis, with issue:

(1) A daughter (of " Murdoh MacCowil vic Ean oig ") who married Alexander, son of Hector MacKenzie of Mellon in Gairloch.[55]

He married, in Uig, a grand-daughter of Donald Cam MacAulay, chief of his clan, identified in the tradition of her descendants as *nighean Iain Ruaidh air a' Chnìp*,[56] that is, a daughter of John MacAulay, tacksman of Kneep, said to be the only Uig survivor of the battle of Auldearn in 1645.[57] This tradition is borne out by the appearance of " Christian Macaulay, relict of Murdow Mathewson " in a list of Stornoway householders dated 1718. The issue of this marriage was as follows:

(2) John, of whom below (as V).

(3) Donald (Domhnall Bàn). In 1718 he and his brother Alexander were joint-tacksmen of Raanish, but in 1720 he moved to Garrabost, and he signs his name as joint-tacksman with Norman MacLeod in the rental of 1726. He died in Stornoway in October, 1751.[58] Donald Matheson had three sons:

(1a) Murdoch, who died in Kirkton of Lochalsh, leaving a son John (Iain Bàn) in Slumbay, Lochcarron, who had seven sons, including two in Demerara, where one died.

(2a) Roderick, who died in Lewis, but a son (1b) Roderick lived in Plockton, and left issue: (1c) Duncan in Attadale, who married Catherine Macnier, and had Donald, married to Barbara Gillanders, Toscaig, Applecross, with issue; John, married to Mary, daughter of John Matheson;[59] Mary; and Margaret. (2c) Alexander, shoemaker in Attadale, who married Ann, daughter of Duncan Murchison, and had a son Duncan (1815-1885), carrier at Jeantown, Lochcarron, married to Grace MacBeath, with issue Alexander and other children. (3c) Donald, who died in America.

(3a) Alexander, a seafaring man, who owned a sloop, and settled in Ireland, where he married, leaving descendants in County Down.[60]

(4) Roderick, who matriculated at Edinburgh University in 1692,[61] and graduated on 30th March, 1695.[62] Two years later (23rd May, 1697) " Mr. Rorie Matheson, a young man in the Lewes " was appointed parish schoolmaster of Dingwall.

He also held the offices of reader, session clerk and precentor. After only two years in Dingwall he demitted office on 9th June, 1699,[63] and returned to Lewis. He became tacksman of South Galson, where he is on record at various dates between 1704 and 1729.[64] He does not appear to have left issue ; no descendants can be traced. There is a reference to " Mr. Roderick Mathesons testament " [65] by his brother Donald, it would seem as the surviving beneficiary, but it is not extant. That Roderick Matheson should have returned to Lewis as he did may appear somewhat strange. Men of his educational background who took up schoolmastering usually had the Church as their ultimate objective. But at that time the people of Lewis were far from being the convinced Presbyterians that their descendants later became, and it may be that Roderick Matheson's career was affected by a lack of sympathy with the ecclesiastical establishment as set up in Scotland after the Revolution of 1688.

(5) Alexander, joint-tacksman of Raanish with his brother Donald in 1718. He died in February, 1750, without issue.[66]

(6) Malcolm (?), of whom hereafter.

(7) A daughter, who married John MacLeod (Iain mac Thorcaill), tacksman of Hacklete, Bernera.[67] Their son Donald was the father of John MacLeod of Colbecks, a wealthy planter in Jamaica, who claimed to be chief of the MacLeods of Lewis, and was actually given arms as such in 1762.[68] But this line failed on the death of his son, Colonel John MacLeod of Colbecks.[69] A brother of John MacLeod of Colbecks, Donald or Daniel, was tacksman of Balallan ; and there were three sisters, Christian, Mary and Barbara, who married, respectively, Donald MacLeod, Kenneth MacIver and Angus Smith, and to whom annuities were left by their wealthy brother.[70] John MacLeod, tacksman of Hacklete, had another son Murdoch (Murchadh mac Iain mhic Thorcaill), born in 1690,[71] some of whose descendants can be traced down to the present time in Lewis and elsewhere.

Murdoch Matheson may have had other sons besides those mentioned above, including Angus Matheson and Duncan Matheson, tenants in Stornoway in 1718, about whom nothing further is known. (Angus and Malcolm were not used as Christian names for Mathesons on the mainland. They are

MacAulay names, introduced no doubt as a result of Murdoch Matheson's marriage to Christian MacAulay.)

V—John Matheson succeeded his father as tacksman of Arinish,[72] perhaps by 1686, for in that year he is mentioned in some business correspondence as "John Matheson in the Lewis."[73] There is a reference to him in the spring of 1698 as he was setting out for Edinburgh, and, again, this was for business reasons.[74] But we meet with him next making a journey in more dramatic circumstances. In 1704 he was trepanned by a French privateer, taken to France, and held to ransom. There is a letter dated at Kishorn, 2nd August, 1704, in which Alexander MacKenzie of Applecross asks John MacKenzie of Delvine to "tell Collin [the writer's son, who had studied medicine abroad] our coald John Matheson in Arrienish wes takine prisoner some Weeks agoe by ane ffrench privateer as is supposit and since he is better knowin in ffrance then I ame he should cause examine how he might be redeimit."[75] The ransom was paid, and there is a letter from John Matheson, written at Applecross —presumably on his way back to Lewis—thanking John MacKenzie for his efforts on his behalf, and telling of the steps he has taken to repay him for his outlay. (See Appendix V.)

In 1705 John Matheson, as eldest son of the deceased Murdoch Matheson in Arinish, is served heir to his cousin, Kenneth Matheson in Applecross, who had died in the previous reign, i.e., before 1702. (See Appendix VI.) This is his last appearance in contemporary record. What we know of his subsequent career is derived from the traditions of descendants, some of whom call him, from his place of residence, Iain Arainis.[76] It is related that he met his end in *Bliadhna Thearlaich*, with adverse effects on the family's station in life. *Bliadhna Thearlaich*, of course, is 1745-6, when John Matheson, if alive, would be long past military age; and, in any case, the men of Lewis did not play an active part in *Bliadhna Thearlaich*. The original reference must have been, not to 1745, but to 1715, when Seaforth's Regiment fought at Sheriffmuir and suffered heavy casualties. John Matheson's foster-brother (*comhalt*), John MacKenzie, of the Applecross family, was killed at Sheriffmuir,[77] and foster-brothers were seldom far apart on such occasions.[78]

In the rental of 1718 Arinish is tenanted by Janet Morison, presumably John Matheson's widow, but she left there in 1720, and in 1726 " John Matheson's relict " is the occupant of a house in Stornoway.[79] As will appear below, there is reason to believe that she was a daughter of the Rev. Kenneth Morison, minister of the parish.

The scene now changes to Uig. Tradition has it that John Matheson left a young family, and that his children, or some of them, were brought up by their relatives, the MacAulays of Valtos.[80] There they were set to learn the craft of weaving, and became highly proficient; examples of their work were preserved in Uig for use as patterns as late as last century.[81] These Mathesons were clearly distinguished from another branch of the family who had never left Uig, and of whom hereafter. (For one thing, their cognomen was *Bàn*, that of the other branch mostly *Ruadh*.) Tradition relates that for a time members of both branches were tenants in Valtos, and there are hints that relations between them were not as cordial as might be expected, with the result that the " incomers " were removed from Valtos to other townlands in Uig[82]—a tradition for which there is some support in the record evidence. In fact, the " incomers " never put down deep roots in Uig; all of them left the parish not later than the third generation.

The children of John Matheson of Arinish brought up in the parish of Uig were:

(1) Murdoch, of whom below (as VI).

(2) Donald, who left Uig and became a tenant in Arnol, parish of Barvas, most probably in 1740, when the chamberlain of Lewis, Colin MacKenzie (Cailean Dearg), was responsible for a considerable movement of tenantry all over the island.[83] Donald Matheson appears on record in Arnol as Donald McEan (Domhnall mac Iain) at various dates between 1753 and 1773, but a son had succeeded him by 1780.[84] He married, but the only clue to his wife's identity is that in 1776 " Anny Matheson in Arnol, a widow " is found in a list of tenants who sold cattle to a Lochcarron drover, Farquhar Matheson, tacksman of New Kelso.[85] Donald Matheson left issue:

(1a) John (Iain Bàn), who was a tenant in Gàsaig, North Bragar, where he appears as John bane McCoil vic Ean (Iain Bàn mac Dhomhnaill mhic Iain) at various dates from 1771 to 1808.[86] He had no sons, but his daughter Ann married Donald MacLeod (Domhnall mac Dhonnchaidh mhic Ghille-chrìosd), Arnol, and their descendants are the MacLeods at 32 Arnol. Before her marriage Ann Matheson had a son Murdoch by Donald Murray (Domhnall mac Choinnich Ghobha), South Bragar, who brought him up, and there are descendants at 21 and 30 South Bragar.[87]

(2a) Norman, in North Bragar, who enlisted in *Saighdeirean Choinnich Oig*, that is to say, the original battalion of the 78th (Seaforth) Highlanders, raised in 1778; but he died soon after joining the Army. He married Margaret, daughter of Kenneth Macleay (Coinneach mac Dhomhnaill mhic Fhearchair), Arnol, and left one son Angus, who lived at Sandwick, Stornoway. Norman Matheson's widow appears as tenant in North Bragar in 1780 and 1787.

(3a) Angus, on record in North Bragar as Angus McCoil vic Ean (Aonghus mac Dhomhnaill mhic Iain) at various dates between 1780 and 1796. He emigrated with his family to Cape Breton.

(4a) Donald (Domhnall Og), who succeeded his father as tenant in Arnol, where he is entered in the rental of 1780 as Donald McCoil vic Ean (Domhnall mac Dhomhnaill mhic Iain). But in the rental of 1787 his name is deleted and that of his brother Malcolm written above. The reason was that in the interval he had married Marion (Mòr), daughter of Murdoch Ross (Murchadh mac Uilleim), tacksman of Melbost Borve, and went to live there. Murdoch Ross had died, leaving a family of daughters, of whom Marion was the eldest. The only child of the marriage was John Matheson (1784-1852), who succeeded as tenant in Melbost Borve. He married Catherine (1783-1863), daughter of Murdoch Nicolson (Murchadh Cléireach), South Galson, with issue, William (who submitted evidence to Lord Napier's Commission in 1883),[88] Murdoch (in the Army), Christina (married to Malcolm MacLeod, Barvas), Angus (the writer's grandfather), and Malcolm.[89] At the time of the clearances (in 1853) the

four brothers moved to Upper Shader, and there are descendants living there at the present time.

(5a) Malcolm, who, as Malcolm McCoil vic Ean (Calum mac Dhomhnaill mhic Iain), is on record as tenant in Arnol (1787, 1796, 1808). He had two sons, both tenants in South Bragar. Donald married Ann Buchanan, and had an only son Angus in Brue, who left descendants there (No. 4). Norman had no sons, and was the last male representative of the family in Arnol or Bragar.[90]

(3) Malcolm, known both as Calum Bàn and Calum Breabadair, who is found under the latter designation as tenant in Crowlista, Uig, at various dates between 1771 [91] and 1780. He had at least the following sons: [92]

(1a) Donald (Domhnall Bàn), who had a long and eventful career in the British Army. He enlisted as a young lad, and was present at the siege of Louisbourg in 1758. He joined the 78th (Seaforth) Highlanders when first raised in 1778, and saw service in India. There is a song about him, in which he is called *Saighdeir Chaluim Bàin.* On being discharged from the Army, he married Christina, daughter of Norman MacDonald (Tormod mac Dhomhnaill mhic Thormoid), Crowlista,[93] and settled down as a tenant in Crowlista, where his name is found at various dates between 1796 and 1824. He had eight children: John; Donald (1794-1869), who served for six years in the Hudson's Bay Company, and, returning to Lewis, married Ellen (Eilidh) MacIver; Murdoch; Norman; Malcolm; Neil; Catherine; and Flora (Fionnghala). When Donald Matheson, the old soldier, died, his widow and all the family emigrated to Cape Breton (c. 1832). There are many descendants in Cape Breton and all over North America.[94]

(2a) Norman, who is on record as tenant in Crowlista at various dates between 1787 and 1824, and his son Malcolm in 1819.[95] The two of them emigrated with their families to Cape Breton.[96]

(4) Kenneth (?), who has left no descendants so far as known, but he appears to have been another son of John Matheson, tacksman of Arinish. He is on record in Crowlista as Kenneth Brepiter (Coinneach Breabadair) in 1766

and 1773. He had a daughter Christian residing in Balnicol, Uig, in 1768.

(5) A daughter (?). There were MacDonalds in Hacklete, Bernera, who claimed descent from John Matheson (Iain Arainis), tacksman of Arinish, in a female line. We have seen that sons of John Matheson were brought up by relatives, and also that he had a sister married to the tacksman of Hacklete ; so the presence of a daughter of his in Hacklete could be accounted for in a similar way. Norman MacDonald (Tormod Ruadh), ancestor of these Hacklete MacDonalds, would be a contemporary of such a daughter, who may have been his wife.[97]

VI—Murdoch Matheson appears to be the Murdo McEan (Murchadh mac Iain) who is one of the tenants in Valtos in 1766. As Murdo Brepiter (Murchadh Breabadair) he is a tenant in Crowlista in 1780 and 1787, having come there, apparently from Valtos, when there was an extensive re-allocation of tenancies in 1773. He had at least the following sons and daughters:

(1) John (Iain Bàn), who is probably the John bain McCourchie (Iain Bàn mac Mhurchaidh) in Valtos of whom there is mention in 1766.[98] That was also the year in which he became a tenant, not, however, in Valtos, but in Erista. He is entered in the rental as John Maccorrachie Brepiter (Iain mac Mhurchaidh Bhreabadair). It is traditionally known that Iain Bàn mac Mhurchaidh Bhreabadair migrated from Uig to Tom-an-fhuadain, Gravir, parish of Lochs. This was probably in 1773, when there was a considerable colonisation of Lochs by tenants from Uig. John Matheson is on record as tenant in Gravir in 1808 and 1824. His family, so far as known, were: [99]

(1a) Murdoch, who served in the battalion of the 78th (Seaforth) Highlanders raised in 1793-4, remembered in tradition as *Saighdeirean Mhic Coinnich Bhodhair*, and of whom there is no further trace.

(2a) Andrew, who married Mary MacDonald, with issue: (1b) John, at Tom-an-fhuadain, who married Sybil MacDonald, and their descendants are found at 4, 6, 15, 25, 30 and 31 Gravir ; (2b) Donald (1807-1877), tenant

in Gravir in 1831,[100] who married Janet MacDonald, and moved to Sandwick, Stornoway, where he left descendants.

(3a) Donald (born in 1783), known as *Am Breabadair Mór*, who moved from Gravir to Uig, and was a tenant in Kneep (1808) and afterwards (1819, 1824, 1829, 1841) in Reef.[101] He married Margaret (1786-1858), daughter of Donald MacRitchie (Domhnall mac Iain Duinn), Kneep, with issue: (1b) John (Iain Mór mac a' Bhreabadair), who married Mary, daughter of Donald Munro, Erista, and had a large family, with some descendants still in Uig; (2b) Donald, who migrated to High Borve, parish of Barvas, and married Margaret MacLeod, with issue; (3b) Malcolm, who also migrated to High Borve, then to Guershader (New Valley), Stornoway,[102] and married, first, Margaret, daughter of William MacKenzie, and, second, Mary, daughter of Donald Ross, with issue; (4b) William, married with issue, who migrated to Mid Borve and afterwards moved to Lower Shader, both in the parish of Barvas; (5b) Mary, who married Angus MacIver, Crowlista, and afterwards in Swainbost, Ness; (6b) a daughter, who married Donald MacDonald (Domhnall mac Chaluim mhic Iain), Shader, Barvas.

(2) Malcolm, known both as Calum Bàn and Calum Breabadair. Under the latter designation he appears as tenant in Crowlista in 1780 and 1787. But before coming to Crowlista (in 1773) he is probably to be identified as Malcolm McCurchie Ken (Calum mac Mhurchaidh mhic Iain) in a list of Valtos kelp-makers dated 1770.[103] He married Ann, apparently a daughter of Malcolm Mackay, Valtos, with issue:

(1a) John, who died suddenly at Garrynahine while on his way to Stornoway, having married Catherine Maclean (Catriona Bhàn), with issue, an only child Catherine (Catriona Og), wife of one of the old soldiers of Uig, John MacAulay (Iain mac Thormoid) (1785-1869), Crowlista.[104]

(2a) Malcolm, who seems to have moved to the Park district of Lochs, and married Henrietta (Eithric), daughter of John Cameron, Gravir, with issue: (1b) Angus, Aird of Tong, who emigrated to Cape Breton, where he left a family of six sons and two daughters, including Henrietta.

born in Lewis ; (2b) John (1799-1872), Aird of Tong, who married Mary, daughter of John MacLeod and widow of Norman Cameron, and had Henrietta, Isabella, Ann and Christian ; (3b) Catherine, in Stornoway ; (4b) Mary, who married John Graham, Garrabost ; (5b) Christina, who married Alexander MacDonald (Alasdair Beag), Stornoway, a native of Nether Coll, and had George (Seòras an Gobha), Keith and other children.[105]

(3a) Murdoch (born in 1773), who served in the battalion of the 78th (Seaforth) Highlanders raised in 1793-4, and took part in campaigns in India, Italy and elsewhere. In 1847 he was one of the old soldiers of Lewis whose services were belatedly recognised, receiving a General Service Medal with a clasp for Maida.[106] On being discharged from the Army, he became a tenant in Stornoway, with a holding which is now part of the Manor Farm.[107] He married Catherine Mackay and had two sons: (1b) Malcolm (1815-1887), master shoemaker, who married Mary, daughter of William MacKenzie (Uilleam mac Eachainn), shipmaster in Stornoway and a native of Gairloch, and their son, Hugh Matheson, was the founder of the firm of that name in Stornoway ; (2b) Hugh, who married Isabella MacDonald and emigrated with his family to Australia.[108]

(4a) Ann, who married Donald (Domhnall Bàn), son of Norman MacDonald (Tormod mac Dhomhnaill mhic Thormoid), Crowlista, with issue.[109]

(3) Donald (Domhnall Bàn),[110] born in 1760. As a young lad, he joined the 78th (Seaforth) Highlanders in 1778, and saw service in India. On returning home after fourteen years in the Army he settled at Gravir, parish of Lochs, where he is on record in 1808, 1824 and 1841. He married Ann, daughter of Torquil MacLeod, Garryvard, Lochs, with issue the following sons and daughters, each of whom, except Donald, had a family:

(1a) Murdoch, who married Mary, daughter of Murdoch MacLeod (Murchadh mac Iomhair), Kershader, Lochs, and his son John was the father of the late Rev. Duncan Matheson, Bernera.

(2a) Donald, who was drowned.

(3a) Torquil (1810-1888), who married Marion Morrison, Gravir.

(4a) Norman (1812-1885), who married Margaret Mackay, Gravir.

(5a) Ann, who married Duncan MacLeod, Gravir.

(6a) Margaret, who married Norman Montgomery, Leurbost.

(7a) A daughter, also married in Leurbost.

Donald Matheson married, as his second wife, Marion Maclennan,[111] without issue. Descendants of his sons are, or were recently, living at 10, 11, 26, 27 and 39 Gravir.[112]

(4) (5) At least two, and possibly three, daughters who were married in Harris, one of them to a MacInnes, at Amhuinnsuidhe, and another, it is said, to an ancestor of the Cunninghams of Scalpay. Tradition has it that, as young girls, they were taken into the household of the Rev. Aulay MacAulay (Maighstir Amhlaidh), minister of Harris, on account of being closely related to the minister's wife.[113] This was Margaret, youngest daughter of the Rev. Kenneth Morison, minister of Stornoway,[114] and it may therefore be that Janet Morison, on record in Arinish in 1718, and apparently the widow of John Matheson, tacksman of Arinish, was her sister.

We now revert to those Mathesons, not descended from John Matheson of Arinish, who have been in Uig continuously since the seventeenth century. According to their own tradition, they are descended from Murdoch Matheson (Murchadh Mór) and the grand-daughter of Donald Cam MacAulay already mentioned. But, apart from that, the earliest name known to them is that of Donald Matheson, tenant in Valtos, who is on record there as Donald Roy Matheson at various dates between 1778 and 1787.[115] It can be shown that Donald Roy's predecessor in the tenancy was Malcolm McCurchy (Calum mac Mhurchaidh), i.e. Malcolm son of Murdoch, who last appears as tenant in Valtos in 1766.[116] If we suppose that he was then an old man, he could be a son of Murdoch Matheson, the original

settler, and Christian MacAulay. We may therefore set him down in his appropriate generation as:

V—Malcolm (?) Matheson, who had at least two sons:

(1) Donald, of whom below (as VI).

(2) Murdoch (?), probably the older son, whose name is not known for certain, but the exact relationship of his and his brother Donald's descendants was remembered.[117] He had at least one son:

(1a) Donald,[118] who had at least two sons: (1b) Murdoch (born in 1764), tenant in Reef, and previously in the battalion of the 78th (Seaforth) Highlanders raised in 1793-4,[119] who married Rachael (Raghnaild) MacLeod, and had Murdoch, in Reef; Donald, in Reef; Malcolm (1811-1877), in Reef and later in Valtos; John, in Reef, and afterwards in High Borve, parish of Barvas; and Christina, who married Malcolm Maclennan, Valtos. (2b) John, tenant in Reef, who married Catherine, daughter of Malcolm Mackay, Linshader, with issue Donald, tenant in Geshader; John (Iain Bàn na Loch) (1803-1888), grandfather of the late Donald Matheson, Mangarsta, and great-grandfather of Dr. Peter Matheson, Uig; Norman, who emigrated; Mary, who married Malcolm Maclennan, Reef; and Christina, who married Norman Mackay.

VI—Donald Matheson was tenant in Valtos, as already stated. In his boyhood he herded cattle for John MacAulay, tacksman of Brenish, Uig, and, while so employed, figured in a curious ceremony. One day his master and Donald Campbell (Domhnall mac Iain Oig), tacksman of Scalpay, were perambulating the boundary between Lewis and Harris, and took the herd-boy with them, asking him to pay close attention to the line of march as pointed out to him. At the end of the proceedings they gave him a sound thrashing in order that all he had seen would be indelibly impressed on his memory; but as a consolation he received from each of them the sum of five shillings.[120] Donald Matheson afterwards married, with issue:

(1) Norman, tenant in Carishader (1808, 1819, 1829), who was born in 1745.[121] In 1805 he gave evidence for use in the Court of Session case about the boundary between Lewis and Harris.[122] He married Catherine MacLeod, with issue:

(1a) John (Iain Bàn nan Uigean) (1787-1872), who married Christina, daughter of Donald MacAulay (Domhnall Og na Buaile Chlach), Kneep. His son Donald spoke for the Kneep tenants before Lord Napier's Commission in 1883 ; [123] and another son John migrated to Borve. Donald's son Peter died in Crowlista in 1951.

(2a) Neil, who migrated from Geshader to Brue, parish of Barvas, in 1850. His family included: (1b) John, who remained in Uig, at Reumhair, married to Janet, daughter of Malcolm MacAulay (Calum Seòladair), Cliff, with a family, but his sons left Lewis ; (2b) (3b) Donald and Norman, who went to Brue with their father, and afterwards emigrated to Canada ; (4b) a daughter, who married John MacPhail, Bragar.

(3a) Christina, who married John MacIver, and died at Brue.

(2) Malcolm (Calum Ruadh), tenant in Pennydonald (1808, 1819, 1824, 1829), who was born in 1748.[124] Like his brother Norman, he appeared before members of the Court of Session in 1805, and it was he who told how, as a boy, his father had been thrashed on the boundary between Lewis and Harris.[125] Malcolm Matheson married Ann, daughter of Norman Morrison (Tormod Caol), Brenish, with issue: [126]

(1a) Donald (Domhnall Ruadh Beag), tenant in Pennydonald (1819, 1824, 1829) and afterwards in Geshader (1841). It is said that he spent his early years at sea after being press-ganged, and that he had an adventurous career in America before making his way back to Lewis. He married Catherine, daughter of John Campbell or Maclean (Iain Breabadair),[127] Kneep, with issue: (1b) Murdoch (Murchadh Ruadh), tenant in Carishader, who had a family of daughters, including Catherine (mother of the late Dr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.C.I.S.) and Ann (mother of the late Rev. Murdoch MacLeod, Portmahomack) ; (2b) William (Uilleam Ruadh), tenant in Geshader, married with issue, George, Donald and Malcolm (all of whom emigrated to Australia and New Zealand [128]), William (Uilleam Dearg), Ann, Mary, Christina and Isabella.

(2a) Norman (Tormod Beag) (1781-1863), tenant in Carnish (1819, 1824, 1841, 1851), and afterwards in Aird

Uig. He married Christina, daughter of Angus MacRitchie (Aonghus mac Fhionnlaigh), Carnish, and had a large family, including Malcolm, father of the late Norman Matheson (1870-1956), Cliff, Uig, who was remarkably well versed in the genealogies of the Lewis Mathesons and many other families.[129]

(3a) Marion (Mòr), who married Donald Morrison (Domhnall mac Chaluim), Brenish, one of the old soldiers of Uig, with issue, and lost her life in a snowdrift at Loch Resort on New Year's Eve, 1864, at the age of eighty-one.

(4a) Christina, who married Donald Campbell (Domhnall mac Uilleim), tenant in Pennydonald, and afterwards in Swainbost, Ness, with issue, including Angus, who was the father of the late Finlay Campbell, Habost, Ness ; and Henrietta (Eithric), who was the mother of the late Rev. Angus MacLeod, Knock.

(3) Peter (Pàdruig Eireasta), tenant in Erista (1808, 1819, 1841, 1851), Uig, who was born in 1762. He married Christina MacLeod, with issue:

(1a) Ann, who married John Martin.

(2a) Marion (Mòr), who married Angus Gillies (Aonghus mac Iain), Brenish.

(3a) Christina, who married Donald Munro, Erista.

There are other Mathesons in Uig, descended from John Matheson (Iain Ruadh), said to have been a son of one of the MacAulay tacksmen of Brenish by a Matheson mother. He left issue: [130]

(1) Hector, tenant in Berve (1808) and later (1819, 1824) in Reef, who married Dorothy (Eòiridh nighean a' Ghobha Dhuibh), born in 1757, daughter of Donald Smith, Lag Ideagol, Uig, and his wife, a daughter of Murdoch MacLeod (Murchadh mac Iain mhic Thorcaill), already mentioned, with descendants in Valtos, Aird and elsewhere in Uig.

(2) John, who was in the Army and after his discharge lived in New York, where he is said to have made a good marriage and prospered.

(3) Henrietta (Eithric), who married Murdoch MacAulay (Murchadh Beag mac Ghille-phàruig), Keose, Lochs, and left descendants there.

Before leaving the subject of the above Mathesons in Lewis, reference should be made to the fact that there are other Mathesons there, known as *Clann an Lighich*, who are entirely unrelated. These Mathesons are, or were, found in Upper and Lower Barvas, South Bragar, and also in the parish of Stornoway (Tong, Garrabost, Bayble, etc.).[131] The surname Matheson in their case is due to a misunderstanding. *Clann an Lighich* were the famous family of physicians (*lighichean*), many of them now known as Beaton, whose Gaelic surname was *Mac Bheathain*. This is so close phonetically to *Mac Mhathain*, the surname of the clan of Lochalsh, that ministers, entering names in the parish registers, confused the two and rendered both *Mac Mhathain* and *Mac Bheathain* indifferently as Matheson: [132] just one example among many of the utter confusion and loss of historical identity occasioned by the practice of giving Gaelic surnames an anglicised form.

Returning now to the genealogists of the clan, notice may be taken in conclusion of one point upon which their information turns out to have been accurate, perhaps rather against expectation. They seem to have accounted for most Matheson families in Lochalsh, and made them out, almost without exception, to be descendants of Murchadh Buidhe. Such a genealogical framework might be considered much too tidy to carry conviction. But a study of the list of householders in Lochalsh in 1679 (see Appendix III) goes a long way towards allaying any such suspicion. In the previous paper on the traditions of the Mathesons we have seen how they were expelled from Lochalsh at the beginning of the seventeenth century for refusing to break off the old connection with the MacDonalds.[133] It looks as if only the family of Murchadh Buidhe accepted the terms offered by the MacKenzies, with the result that they became, in effect, the founders of a new dynasty. This was the price that had to be paid for the survival of the clan in Lochalsh, or, indeed, in any meaningful form at all.

APPENDIX

I

Bond to Murdoch Matheson 1658

I William Monro in ffoulis be the tennor heroff grant me to be justlie adebtit and restand awand to Murdow Mathewsone in the Lewis all and haill the sowme of thrie hundreth threttie ane pundis Scotis monie usuall of this natioun quheroff I grant recept and hold me compleitly payed in numerat monie renuncand all exceptiouns in the contrar and for me my aires executoiris and successoris Exoneris quitclamis and dischairges the said Murdo Mathewsone his aires executoiris and all quhom it effeiris of the samen simpliciter and for ever Qwhilk sowme of thrie hundreth threttie ane pundis monie forsaid with the ordinar annuel rent of the samen fra the dait presentt to the terme of payment underwriten I the said William Monro as principall and with me ffarquhar Monro of Teaneard and David Monro his laufull sowne as cautioners sewerties and full debtors for me be the tennor of thir presenttis faythfullie bind & obleissis ws Conjunctlie and severallie our aires executoiris successouris and wtheris intromitters with our guids and geir whatsumever to thankfullie content pay and delyver to the said Murdo Mathewsone his aires executoiris or assinayes At Mertinmas next Jm vic and fiftie aught yeiris togidder with the sowme of ane hundreth pundis monie forsaid of liquidat expenses in caice of failzie and registration of thir presenttis in our default theranent with the ordinar annel rent and profeit of the said principall sowme yeirlie termlie monethlie and continuallie during the not payment theroff efter the said terme and that alsweill not infeft and seasit as infeft and seasit therintill (the executioun of the ane nowayes being prejudiciall to the wther) without ony premonitioun or requisitioun to be maid to that effect And I forsuith the said William Monro faithfullie bind and obleissis me my aires executoiris and successouris to warrant frie releive harmless and skaithles keip my cautioneris abovnamit and their forsaids of the cautionerie abovwriten and of all coist scaith dammage expensis and interest that thai or aither of them or their forsaids sall happin to susteine and incurr therthro And for the mair sewertie wee principall and cautioneris

abovnamit ar content and consent that thir presenttis be actit and registrat in the buikis of the hie court of justice or ony wther inferiour judicatorie within this natioun To have the strength of ane decreet of aither of ther Judicatoris interponit therto That letters and executorialls of horneing on ane simple chairge of ten dayes and poynding (the ane but prejudice of the other) may pas heirupon And to that effect Constitutis Our procuratouris &c

In witness quheroff we have subscrivit thir presenttis (wryten be the said David Monro) with our handis at Dingwall the Day of Jm vic and fiftie aught yeiris Befoir thir witnesses Ranald Bayne burges of Dinguel Donald & Hector Monroes laufull sownes to the said fferquhar Monro and William Dinguell burges ther

W Monro
Ferquhar Monro cationer
Da Monro cationer
Ranald Baine witness
D Monro witness
H Monro witnes

[Endorsed:]
ob:
Monro to Mathewsone
20 Junii 1663
[Docquet:]

Edinburgh 20 Junii 1663

I procurator for the withine designed William Monro as principall and Ferquhar and David Munrois as cautioneris consent to the registration of the within writen obligatioun in the books of Counsell and Sessioune printed be Mr. William Cheisle

—*Register of Deeds*, Dal., Vol. 8, p. 845

II

Mathesone & Mackenzie 23 Nov 1664

In presence etc Compeaired James Abernethie Procuratore [of] Alexander M^{c}kenzie efter designit & gave in the bond underwryten quherof the tenor follows viz.

I Alexander Mackenzie of Hiltone grantis me & my aires to content pay & delyver to the said Jon Matheson Chamberlane of Lochelshe all of the losse of Lochelshe be me or the tenants of the said countrie since my Intromissione betwixt the dait hereof & the fifteenth day of February next Jmvi sextie yearis that is to say I bind me & my forsaids to pay & delyver upon the forsaid accompt to the said Jon Mathesone & his forsaids the sowme the sowme [*sic*] of sixteen pounds ten shillings sterling monie under the failzie of five pounds sterling togider with the annuel rent of the forsaid sowme dureing the not payment thereof efter the said terme forsaid Consenting that [thir] presents be registrat in anie book etc competent that Letters of horning & poynding may pass therupon ten dayes dayes [*sic*] allenarlie wyth effect Constitutes James Abernethie our procuratore In witness quherof I have subscryvit thir presents with my hand at Achnahinich the nynth of Januar Jmvi sextie yeares before thir witnesses Mr Donell McCrae Alexander Matheson in Auchindarich

A MKenzie Mr Donell

McCrae Witness Alexr Matheson witness

—*Register of Deeds*, Mack., Vol. 11, p. 791

III

Execution of Summons 1679

Upon the tuentie ane tuentie tua tuentie ffoure tuentie five tuentie sex tuentie sevint tuentie eight and tuentie nyne dayes respectively off March Jmvi and seventie nyne yeiris I John M^{c}urchie ane off the sheriff officeris off Ros past at comand off ane warrand and be vertew theroff lawfully sumond warned and charged

John Mathewson in ffernaick in Lochalsh [*History*, 28 ff.] *
Allexander Mathewson in Craig [*Ibid.*, 63]
John m^{c} ouill vick ean in Auchnandarrach [*Ibid.*, 108 ?]
Duncan m^{c} Alister vick ean vick rorie ther [*Ibid.*, 116]

* References are to the relevant pages in the *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.).

Kenneth m^{c} onchie vick ean oige in Plock [*Ibid.*, 78]
Murdo m^{c} ean glas in Diurness [*Ibid.*]
Allexander m^{c} ean vick rorie in Erbsaike [*Ibid.*, 115-6]
Murdo Mathewsone in Balmacarra [*Ibid.*, 61]
John M^{c}Lenan in Reiracke
John m^{c} Angus vick Kenneth ther
Murdo m^{c}gillivorie and
Duncan m^{c} ean dow ther
Mr Donald M^{c}Kra in Nostie
Duncan m^{c} urchie vic Keneth in Auchnacloich
John m^{c} finley vick Farquhar &
Duncane m^{c} Farquhar [*sic*] his brother germane in Auchtatorlane
Donald m^{c} finley vick arlich in Udin
Duncan m^{c} finley vick arlich in Arddlive
Alexander M^{c}Kra in Ardraught
Archibald m^{c} ouill oige in Aldnasow
Donald m^{c} Alister vic rorie in Onich
John m^{c} gowin in Sallachie
ffinley m^{c} Karlich ther
Charles Bayne ther
Duncan oige ther
Donald oige ther
Donald m^{c} ean vic Keneth in Breaintra
Donald m^{c} ewin vick ean vic Kenneth in Inchnairne
John m^{c} onill voire in Auchochonolich
John m^{c} ouill glas and
Duncan glas his brother germane in Ardnarve
Ewin m^{c} urchie vic ean vick rorie [*History*, 125, 27] &
Duncan m^{c} ean voire in Auchmoire
John m^{c} onill oige ther
Donald m^{c} Kenneth vick ean in Rearaicke in Lochcarron
Alexander m^{c}ulloch in Strome
Kenneth M^{c}Kenzie in Bracklach
Malcolm m^{c} finley roy ther
John m^{c} onchie vick finley ther
Duncan moire ther
John m^{c} allan &
Donald moire ther
Duncan m^{c} finley in Tulloch
Donald oige ther

John m^{C} onchie vick onill vick urchie ther
John Bayne ther
John m^{C} neill and
Finley m^{C} onchie ther
Duncan m^{C} onill vick onchie in Rievoachane
Kenneth M^{C}Kenzie and
Donald down m^{C} gowin in Auchtintie
Donald m^{C} rorie vick onachie in Dalmartine
Alexander M^{C}Kenzie ther
John buy m^{C} ean vic Kenneth ther and
Donald m^{C} ean roy ther
John M^{C}Kenzie in Arinackaike
Finley m^{C} ean glas in Kenlochbenachran [in Strachonnan]
Duncan m^{C} onill vick ouill ther
Donald m^{C} ean vick onill downe ther
Duncan oige &
Farquhair m^{C} ean reich ther
Donald m^{C} ean vick intire ther
Donald m^{C} ean vick finley buy ther
Donald m^{C} finley vick ginan and
Duncan m^{C} finley vick ginan his brother ther
Duncan m^{C} rorie ther
John M^{C} ley ther
Rorie m^{C} ean ther
John m^{C} onill vick ouill and
Beatrix nein finley his mother ther
John m^{C} ean vick ean in Inverchoran
Margaret nein vurchie ther
John m^{C} onill vick omas ther
Donald m^{C} finley vick onchie ther
Finley m^{C} onchie ther
John m^{C} onill roy ther
Donald m^{C} ean ire ther
John Keird ther
Duncan m^{C}Killivorie ther
John m^{C} ean vic Kenzie and
Christan nein gillichreist ther
John m^{C} gillichreist ther
Finley m^{C} ean vick farquhar ther
Farquhar m^{C} ean vick farquhar ther &
Donald roy ther

* all personallie apprehendit to compeir personallie befoir the Sheriff of Ros or his deput within the burgh of Fortros and court place theroff the fifteinth day off Aprile next to come in the hours off caus to answer at the instance off Colin M^{c}Kenzie off Keppoch† in the action and cause of furthcomeing persewed be him against the saidis defenderis with certificatioun as effeiris This I did efter the forme & tennor of the said Warrand in all poyntes Before these witnesses Mr Duncan m^{c}ulloch Donald M^{c}Kra in Lochalsh Alexander roy m^{c} kean vic Kenneth ther Alexander m^{c} Oachean [*recte* Eachean, Eachern ?] in Lochcarron Kenneth M^{c}Kenzie ther & Alexander M^{c}Kenzie ther Duncan m^{c} rorie in Strachonnan & John M^{c}Kenzie ther with divers utheris and for the mair veriefication off this my executioun I have subscrivit thir presentis

John m^{c} Curchie officer

ffort: 15 Ap 1679

* [Written in margin:] and Sir Alexander M^{c}kenzie of Coull and Collin M^{c}kenzie of Redcastell principall debitors for their entress both personally aprehendit— John m^{c} curchie Officer

† "Collector of the Cess and Excize" (Court Minute Book, fol. 193v).

—*Tain Sheriff Court Records,* Box 90; and Court Minute Book 1663-1684, fol. 193v-195v

IV

[*Tenants in Lochalsh 1694*]

Colline M^{c}Kenzie in Ardnarve
Duncan roy m^{c} oil glass ther
Evan M^{c}Kenzie of Hilltoun there
Donald m^{c} evan vic ean vic kennith in Inshnairne
Donald m^{c} ean vic keneth in Braetrae
Angus m^{c} ean vic oil oig in Auchinleck
Alexander M^{c}Kenzie in Auchmoir
Rorie m^{c} conchie ther
John m^{c} ean gow ther
Donald m^{c} oil vic finlay ther

John m^{c} evan vic ther [cf. *History*, 125]
John Mathesone of Bennedgefield [in Fernaig] [*Ibid.*, 28 ff.]
Murdoch Mathesone in Craig [*Ibid.*, 63]
John m^{c} coull oig in Plock [*Ibid.*, 108 ?]
Rorie M^{c}intire in Lundie
Alexander m^{c} courchie Coull in Auchindarroch [*Ibid.*, 62 ?]
John M^{c} kennich vic ean roy ther
Duncan m^{c} ean glas ther
Donald m^{c} Kennich vaine ther
Evan gow &
John m^{c} phatrick ther
Rorie m^{c} alaster vic ean vic rorie alias Matthiesone in Duriness [*Ibid.*, 116]
Duncan & Murdoch m^{c} ean glasses ther [*Ibid.*, 84]
Kenneth m^{c} conchie in Arbesecke [*Ibid.*, 78 ?]
Donald m^{c} conchie [*sic*] his sone ther
Duncan m^{c} ean waine ther
John m^{c} coull vic ean riach ther
Duncan M^{c}intire ther
M^{c}intire his sone ther
Dougald m^{c} ean waine ther
John m^{c} coill vic ean riach ther
Alexander & ffarquhar Matthesones in Ballmacarra [*Ibid.*, 63 ?]
John m^{c} oil oig vic illivoir in Reradge
Annable M^{c}Kenzie in Noiste
Evander Murchisone in Auchtertire
Kenneth Murchisone in Auchtatoriland
Donald roy m^{c} farquhar voir ther
John m^{c} ean vic hustane ther
Kenneth M^{c}Kenzie Chamberland of Lochalsh
Alexander m^{c} intaylour in Auchtatoriland
Duncan buy ther
Donald m^{c} curchie in Auchinacloigh
Malcome roy ther
Donald bayne m^{c} farquhar vic illichrist ther
Christopher m^{c} farquhar oig ther
John m^{c} alaster vic ean vic ther [*Ibid.*, 87 ?]
Donald M^{c}rae alias m^{c} finlay vic illichrist in Ardelve

John Murchisone in Innverskinegg
Alexander M^{c}rae woodsetter of Conchrae
Donald M^{c}rae alias m^{c} illichalme in Altinsuie
Donald m^{c} finlay vic herlich in Sallachie
Donald m^{c} alaster vic rorie ther
John m^{c} alaster vic rorie ther and
John dow Mathesone ther [=John Glas, *History*, 84 ?]

—*Forfeited Estates Papers* (Seaforth)

(Extracted from summons at the instance of George MacKenzie of Rosehaugh against the tenants of Lochalsh anent arrears of mails and other dues, 4th December, 1694.)

V

[*Letter of John Matheson 1704*]

Much honoured

After comeing to Ross I indevoured to returne your honoured payment in Couls hands quhich being done I dischairged him off tuo hundderth marks at this present terme off Mertemess & got his honoured recept to reteir my bond Sir I think my self verie much obleidged to your kyndness meitting with you in my afflictione quhich will render me all my days your Honours servant & weelwisher

Honoured sir
your honours verie
humble servant
Jo: Matheson

Aplecross 26
off October
1704

[Addressed:] ffor
verie honoured Sir
John M^{c}kenzie
off Cramond
these

[Endorsed:] From John Matheson
Lews

—*Delvine Papers*, Book 1104, fol. 238

VI

[*Retour John Matheson to Kenneth Matheson 1705*]

Haec Inquisitio facta fuit in pretorio Burgi de Dingwall octavo die mensis Junii Anno Domini Millesimo Septingentesimo quinto Coram honorabili viro Joanne Dingwall uno Balivorum burgi de Dingwall per probos et fideles dignos viros patrie subsequentes viz: Dominum Donaldum Bayne de Tulloch Murdochum M^{c}keinzie filium Alexandri M^{c}keinzie quondam de Tollie Joannem ffraser camerarium quondam Domini de Gearloch Georgium Tuoch in Crovehouse magistrum Joannem Robertsone filium Mathei Robertsone quondam de Davachcartie Thomam M^{c}keinzie burgenses Georgium M^{c}keinzie et Joannem Dingwall juniorem nuper balivos dicti burgi Colinum M^{c}keinzie Willielmum Dingwall Joannem Dingwall Rodericum M^{c}Kye Donaldum Monro Donaldum M^{c}Neill Thomam Moresone omnes burgenses in dicto burgo Qui jurati dicunt Quod quondam Kennethus Mathewsone filius Joannis Mathewsone quondam in Keilmuire in Aplecross qui fuit frater quondam Murdochi Mathewsone in Arenes in Lewis patris Joannis Mathewsone ibidem Latoris presentium obiit ad fidem et pacem S(upremi) D(omini) N(ostri) Regis Willielmi Dei gratia magnae Britanniae ffranciae et Hiberniae Regis fideique Defensoris beatae memoriae Et quod dictus Joannes Mathewsone est filius legitimus natu maximus dicti quondam Murdochi Mathewsone ideoque legitimus et propinquior heres masculus dicti quondam Kennethi Mathewsone filii sui patrui Et quod est legitimae aetatis In cujus rei testimonium Sigilla eorum qui dictae Inquisitioni intererant Una cum sigillo dicti burgi de Dingwall manuque Clerici ejusdem subscripta (brevi e Cancellaria S(upremae) D(ominae) N(ostrae) Reginae directa debite executa inclusa) Sunt appensa anno die mensis et loco prescripto Extractum per me Clericum Communem dicti burgi Testantibus meis signo et Subscriptione solitis

Sic Subscribitur Jo: Cameron clericus

—*Inquisitionum Retornatarum Registrum*, Vol. 51 (1704-5), fol. 455

VII

As the indications are that John Matheson of Arinish, who appears in the preceding documents, was killed at the battle of Sheriffmuir, it may be appropriate to cite the following verse from *Oran nam Fineachan Gàidhealach,* the rallying song of the Highland clans composed at the commencement of the Rising of 1715 by the bard John MacDonald (Iain Dubh mac Iain mhic Ailein):

Clann Mhic Mhathain nan geurlann
thèid treun air chùl arm ;
an Alba 's an Eirinn
b'e ur beus a bhith garg ;
an am dol a bhualadh
b'e 'n cruadal ur calg ;
bu ghuineach ur beuman
'n uair dh'éireadh ur fearg.

(Clan Matheson of the sharp sword-blades
will valiantly take the field behind their weapons ;
in Scotland and Ireland
it was your wont to be fierce ;
when going to strike blows
hardihood steeled your temper ;
your strokes were vengeful
when your anger was aroused.)

Until recently, published versions of this song gave the first line of the above verse as *Siosalaich nan geurlann* (see, e.g., MacKenzie, *The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry,* 1st ed., p. 73). This is metrically and musically impossible. And not only so, but the Clan Chisholm never figured in any way in Irish history. It is therefore evident that *Clann Mhic Mhathain,* the reading in the Maclagan MSS., where there is a version of the song, is to be preferred, and indeed is likely to be correct. (See Watson, *Bardachd Ghàidhlig,* 3rd ed., pp. 154, 303.) It is metrically and musically satisfactory, and the reference to Ireland is susceptible of explanation. There are two possibilities. One is that the bard was aware that the name *Mac Mathghamhna* (anglicised as MacMahon) existed in Ireland, and wrongly supposed that identity of name proved

identity of ancestry. Most of the Irish MacMahons are unrelated to the Scottish clan of the same name (*Mac Mhathain*, earlier *Mac Mathghamhna*). But there is another and perhaps more likely possibility. At that date (1715) there may still have been memories of the fact that many members of the Matheson clan (*Clann Mhic Mhathain*) migrated to Ireland as gallowglasses (*gallóglaigh*) in the later Middle Ages and founded families there who became difficult to distinguish from the native Irish families of the same name. See G. A. Hayes-McCoy, *Scots Mercenary Forces in Ireland*, pp. 35, 54, 65, 66.

NOTES

To avoid repetition, it may be noted, first of all, that the dates listed below refer to the following documentary sources :

1679 See Appendix III.
1694 See Appendix IV.
1704 List of Lewis tacksmen in the Testament of John MacKenzie of Assynt (Commissariot of the Isles).
1718 Rentals of Lewis and Lochalsh in Forfeited Estates Papers (Seaforth).
1720 Forfeited Estates Papers (Seaforth).
1726 Rentals of Lewis and Lochalsh in Forfeited Estates Papers (Seaforth); and see Macphail, *Highland Papers* II. 312 ff.
1729 Forfeited Estates Papers (Seaforth).
1753 Seaforth Papers from Brahan Castle (Scottish Record Office).
1766, 1780, 1787 } Rentals of Lewis in the Gillanders of Highfield Papers.
1768, 1773 } Gillanders of Highfield Papers.
1796 Lists of Lewis tenants in Stornoway Sheriff Court Records (Scottish Record Office).
1808 List of Lewis kelp-makers (date approximate from internal evidence) in Seaforth Papers from Brahan Castle.
1819, 1824 } Lists of Lewis tenants, *ibid.*
1829 Lists of Lewis tenants in Stornoway Sheriff Court Records.
1841, 1851 } Census Returns.

Dates of birth are calculated from Census Returns, but can only be considered approximate, as the ages given, at least in the 1841 return, are often intended to be accurate only within a margin of five years. When the years of birth and death (after 1855) are given, the year of birth is calculated from the age given in the Register of Deaths.

1 See *ante*, Vol. XLII, pp. 153-4, and additional note, p. 181. (In the following notes it is not always considered necessary to give detailed page references when this paper is cited.)
2 *Acts of the Lords of Council* (1496-1501) II. 207, 209; *The Family of Rose of Kilravock* (The Spalding Club), 169.

3 Besides those identified in the text, Welland Chisholme was twelfth chief of his clan. See Alexander MacKenzie, *The History of the Chisholms*, 41. Here the foray to the Black Isle is attributed to the previous chief of the same name, which is unlikely on chronological grounds. As to William Forbes, he was presumably descended from Sir William Forbes, first of Pitsligo, one of whose natural sons settled in Strathglass c. 1400 and founded a family there (Mathew Lumsden, *Descriptione of the Genealogie of the Houss of Forbes 1580* (1819), 31).

4 Kenzoch McColeif is a tenant in Moy in 1504; and so also is Johannes Boy (i.e. Iain Buidhe), who may be the father of John Roy Makanvoy (i.e. Iain Ruadh mac Iain Bhuidhe). In the same rental Rory McCoule (i.e. Ruaidhri mac Dhubhghaill) is a tenant in Ord, and he may be the same as Rory Mule Makcoule (i.e. Ruaidhri Maol mac Dhubhghaill). (*Exchequer Rolls* XII. 663, 664.)

5 Gairloch Charter Chest; *History of the MacKenzies* (2nd ed.), 388; *ante*, Vol. XLII. 155-6.

6 See *ante*, Vol. XLII. 164-5.

7 Gregory, *History of the Western Highlands and Isles*, 96 ff.

8 See *ante*, Vol. XLII. 156-7.

9 *Register of the Great Seal* III. No. 1924.

10 *Ibid.*, IV. Nos. 2270, 2284.

11 *Ibid.*, V. No. 2042.

12 *Ibid.*, VI. No. 1789.

13 Macphail, *Highland Papers* II. 44.

14 *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 25.

15 *History of the MacKenzies* (2nd ed.), 370; *History of the Clan Macrae*, 160-1.

16 *History of the MacKenzies* (2nd ed.), 368.

17 Tiree-Manchester MS.; *Celtic Magazine* VII. 111. The verse is not quoted correctly in the *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 28.

18 *Clan Donald* II. 792.

19 Services of Heirs.

20 See *ante*, Vol. XLII. 162 (and note 53); *Earls of Cromartie* II. 501. In the latter source the date is given as 1572; the siege seems to have lasted three years (1570-73).

21 *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 23 n.

22 *Ibid.*, 22 n, 23 n.

23 *Ibid.*, 23 n, 22 n.

24 *Ibid.*, 22 n. He is probably the "Dugaldus Mathesone, Lochabriensis" (*recte* Lochalsiensis?) on record as a student at King's College, Aberdeen, in 1659 (*Fasti Aberdonenses*, 476).

25 *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 22 n.

26 Inverness Sasines, Vol. V, fol. 584. Here Dugald Matheson is described as "in Kishorn", but this was part of the parish of Applecross. Alexander MacKenzie (*History of the MacLeods*, 369) is in error in stating that Giles MacLeod died unmarried.

27 See *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 82-3.

28 *Ibid.*, 108 ff.

29 *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections* I. 84.

30 Here again there may have been confusion because of the existence of more than one Iain Og. It is possible that if, as the evidence cited suggests, Dugald Matheson (Dubhghall an Oir) had a son Iain Og and a great-grandson Iain mac Dhubhghaill mhic Iain Oig,

the latter may have had descendants in Strath, Skye, this leading to a belief that he himself had gone there.

31 Services of Heirs: John Matheson to Kenneth Matheson (1705). See Appendix VI.

32 *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections* I. 75.

33 Commissariot of Inverness: Testaments; see Warrand, *Some Fraser Pedigrees*, 65 n.

34 MacGill, *Old Ross-shire and Scotland* I. 254.

35 Dornie MS. History of the Mathesons; *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 63.

36 Inverness Sasines, Vol. VI, fol. 123.

37 Delvine Papers, Book 1316, fol. 88 (National Library). See also *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 82. But here the family of Mathesons in question is wrongly identified.

38 See Appendix I. The fact that "Murdow Mathewsone in the Lewis" was sufficient identification indicates that he was the only one of that name there; and the same applies to his son, identified simply as "John Matheson in the Lewis" (*ante*, p. 189). See also endorsement in Appendix V.

39 If this is meant to be John Matheson, ancestor of the Achtaytoralan family, he should not be in the list; the expedition of 1654 must have been before his time. His name appears in 1694 in Auchnacloich (see Appendix IV), but not as yet in 1679 (see Appendix III).

40 Mercurius Politicus in Gwynne, *Memoirs of the Great Civil War*, Appendix, 256, 257.

41 Morrison's MS. Traditions of the Western Isles, Vol. I (Stornoway Library).

42 MacGill, *op. cit*. I. 79.

43 *Ibid*.

44 *History of the MacKenzies* (2nd ed.), 500.

45 *New Statistical Account* XIV (Ross and Cromarty), 163.

46 *The Highlander* (newspaper), issues of 22nd January and 29th April, 1876 (Gaelic Society of Inverness Library).

47 *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections* I. 84; Inverness Sasines, Vol. V, fol. 256; H. H. MacKenzie, *The MacKenzies of Ballone*, 115, 118. *See ante*, Vol. XLII, 180 (note 73).

48 *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections* I. 82; R. Ross, *Notes on the Family History and Connections of Mr. John MacDonald of Little Bernera, Island of Lewis* (Mauritius, 1902), 6; *State of the Conjoined Actions . . . Alexander Hume, Esq., of Harris, against the Right Honourable Francis, Lord Seaforth*, 36, 41; and *The Earl of Dunmore against James Matheson, Esq., M.P.*, 77. (Prints of Court of Session cases in 1805 and 1850 concerning the march between Lewis and Harris.)

49 *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections* I. 84.

50 Peter Colin Campbell, *Account of the Clan Iver*, 101. There are letters of Duncan MacIver, tacksman of Carloway, in the Delvine Papers, Book 1314.

51 Information from the late John Mackay, a native of Crowlista, and the late Norman Matheson, Cliff.

52 See *ante*, Vol. XLVI. 73-4.

53 Letter of the Rev. John MacLeod, Harris, dated 17th July, 1789, in Hutton Collections, Part ii, no. 135 (National Library). Mr. MacLeod got his information from the Rev. Hugh Munro, Uig,

who said that part of the building was then standing. There are no traces of it now.

54 Services of Heirs. (See Appendix VI.)

55 *Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections* I. 75.

56 Information from the late Norman Matheson, Cliff.

57 Morrison's MS. Traditions of the Western Isles, Vol. I; *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* (1879-80) XIV. 416-7.

58 Delvine Papers, Book 1149, fol. 203.

59 *History of the Mathesons* (2nd ed.), 107 (3.a.l).

60 Information as to these three sons and descendants of Donald Matheson (Domhnall Bàn), tacksman of Garrabost, from the Iomaire, Tiree-Manchester and Dornie MSS., supplemented from parish registers and census returns.

61 MS. Edinburgh University Matriculation Roll (University Library).

62 *Catalogue of Edinburgh Graduates* (Edinburgh, 1857).

63 Macrae, *Dingwall's Thousand Years*, 325, 326.

64 The signatures in the rental of 1726 and on the Edinburgh University Matriculation Roll are unmistakeably in the hand of the same person. In 1718 Roderick Matheson is described as "absent out of the Countrey."

65 Delvine Papers, Book 1148, fol. 253.

66 *Ibid.*

67 Iomaire and Tiree-Manchester MSS.; Forfeited Estates Papers (Seaforth); Pedigree of John MacLeod of Colbecks in the Lyon Office; *Clan MacLeod Magazine*, No. 15 (1950), 483.

68 *Ibid.*

69 *Ibid.*, 484; Stewart of Garth, *Sketches of the Highlanders* (1822) II. 399.

70 Gillanders of Highfield Papers.

71 *Ibid.*

72 Services of Heirs. (See Appendix VI.)

73 *The Book of Dunvegan* (Third Spalding Club) I. 163.

74 Delvine Papers, Book 1323, fol. 2, 5.

75 *Idem*, Book 1316, fol. 88. On 8th August, 1704, John MacKenzie of Assynt writes from Stornoway: "We are plagued with a little pirrate or privateer in the Lewis Manche, which keeps the people from Exporting their Cattle and other Effects poor John Matheson is prisoner with them and some other Islanders this putts the Lews farr behinde this year, considdering how ill money is to be hade" (*Idem*, Book 1323, fol. 17).

76 There is a Lewis saying: "Mana gobh, fàg, mar thuirt Iain Arainis ri bhean" (If you won't take it, leave it, as John of Arinish said to his wife). No other John can be traced in Arinish since John Matheson's day.

77 *History of the MacKenzies* (2nd ed.), 598. He was one of the "four Johns of Scotland" killed at Sheriffmuir, and commemorated in the lament by Kenneth Macrae (Dornie MSS.; Maclean Sinclair, *Gaelic Bards* II. 27).

78 Though not strictly a foster-brother, by 1705 John Matheson was the nearest surviving foster-relative of the Applecross MacKenzies.

79 Forfeited Estates Papers (Seaforth).

80 At this time Donald MacAulay (Domhnall mac Mhurchaidh mhic Aonghuis mhic Dhomhnaill Chaim) was tacksman of Valtos (*Ibid.*; *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* XIV (1879-80), 387). He and John Matheson of Arinish were second cousins.

81 Information from the late John Maclean and the late John Mackay, both of Crowlista.

82 Same sources as in the previous note; and the late Rev. Malcolm Maclean, whose informants were relatives in Uig.

83 Gillanders of Highfield Papers.

84 *Ibid.*; and Seaforth Papers from Brahan Castle.

85 Gillanders of Highfield Papers.

86 *Ibid.*; and Seaforth Papers *ut supra*.

87 Information from Major Norman T. MacLeod, a native of Arnol.

88 *Crofters Commission—Evidence*, 992.

89 Among members of the next generation, the writer has derived much of his genealogical knowledge relating to the Mathesons from Alexander Matheson (1860-1950), son of William; from his father, Malcolm Matheson (1854-1926), son of Angus; and from the late Angus Matheson, Borve, son of Malcolm.

90 Information from the late Donald Matheson (1876-1969), Brue, a grandson of Angus Matheson.

91 Gillanders of Highfield Papers.

92 An account of Malcolm Matheson's descendants in Cape Breton has been obtained from a descendant, Miss Jean Matheson, St. Louis, Missouri, who is a great-grand-daughter of Donald Matheson and Ellen MacIver. It should be pointed out that Donald Matheson, the soldier, and his brother Norman were sons of the older Calum Bàn, and not of the latter's nephew, also Calum Bàn, as has been stated (*ante*, Vol. XLII. 276); and that from known relationships, the older Calum Bàn, or one of his brothers in Uig, must have been the father of Janet Matheson, who married Donald MacLeod (Domhnall Ruadh), Crowlista, great-great-grandfather of the late Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Balquhidder (information from Mr. D. Finlayson, Ardroil, Uig).

93 *Ibid.*, 272; and information from Miss Jean Matheson.

94 Information from Miss Jean Matheson.

95 Seaforth Papers, *ut supra*.

96 Information from Miss Jean Matheson.

97 Information from Mr. Iain MacDonald, postmaster at Miavaig, Uig, who is seventh in descent from Tormod Ruadh. The latter's grandsons appear on record in Hacklete as John mac Ian vic Hormoid Ruay (Iain mac Iain mhic Thormoid Ruaidh) (from whom Mr. MacDonald is descended) and Angus mac Ian vic Hormoid Ruay (Aonghus mac Iain mhic Thormoid Ruaidh) in 1816 (Stornoway Sheriff Court Records).

98 Gillanders of Highfield Papers (letter of William Maclennan, dated Berve, 22nd December, 1766).

99 Information about John Matheson and his descendants from the late Angus MacInnes, Gravir, and Mr. Donald Mackay, Kershader.

100 Seaforth Papers, *ut supra*.

101 *Ibid.*

102 According to the late Norman Matheson, Cliff, Uig.

103 Gillanders of Highfield Papers.

104 *Ante*, Vol. XLII. 276; parish registers.

105 Information about Malcolm Matheson's descendants from the late Alexander R. Campbell, Marybank, Muir of Ord, a native of Stornoway; *ante*, Vol. XLII. 276; parish registers.

106 Account of the old soldiers of Uig by the late Col. Alexander MacKenzie, C.F., published in the *Stornoway Gazette*, issues of 30th December, 1927; and 12th, 19th and 26th July, 2nd and 9th August, 1955.

107 Information from the late Norman Matheson, Cliff, and the late Alexander R. Campbell.

108 Information from the late Alexander R. Campbell; parish registers.

109 *Ante*, Vol. XLII. 276, 272.

110 Information about Donald Matheson and his descendants from the late Rev. Duncan Matheson, Bernera; the late Angus MacInnes, Gravir; the late Rev. Malcolm Maclean; and from parish registers.

111 Census of 1841.

112 Information from the late Angus MacInnes, Gravir, and Mr. Donald Mackay, Kershader.

113 Information from the late Angus MacInnes, Gravir, a descendant of the sister married at Amhuinnsuidhe.

114 *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* (1879-80) XIV. 428; *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae* (new ed.) VII. 189.

115 Gillanders of Highfield Papers.

116 *Ibid.* The two names correspond in position when the lists of 1766 and 1780 (obviously in the same order) are written in parallel columns.

117 By the late Norman Matheson, Cliff, and Malcolm Matheson, Reef, grandson of Malcolm Matheson (1811-1877), Valtos.

118 Stornoway Sheriff Court Records.

119 *Ibid.*

120 *State of the Conjoined Actions . . . Alexander Hume, Esq., of Harris, against the Rgiht Honourable Francis, Lord Seaforth*, 49-50.

121 *Ibid.*

122 *Ibid.*

123 *Crofters Commission—Evidence*, 884.

124 *State of the Conjoined Actions . . . Alexander Hume, Esq., of Harris, and the Right Honourable Francis, Lord Seaforth*, 49.

125 *Ibid.*, 49-50.

126 Information from the late Norman Matheson, Cliff, supplemented from parish registers.

127 Campbell in the parish registers of baptisms and marriages; but (according to the late Norman Matheson) descendants in the male line are now Maclean.

128 Letter in the *Weekly Scotsman*, issue of 19th December, 1958.

129 Norman Matheson, who knew nothing of genealogy from written sources, informed the writer of a family tradition about an ancester called Murchadh Buidhe. All he knew of him was that he lived at a period anterior to the coming of his descendant to Lewis.

130 Information about John Matheson (Iain Ruadh) and his family from descendants, including the late Miss Anna MacLeod, Stornoway (whose father, the Rev. Angus MacLeod, Knock, left genealogical notes in MS.); and also from the late Norman Matheson, Cliff.

131 It is possible, however, that the Mathesons in the parish of Stornoway known as *Clann an Lighich*, or some of them, are descended from Alexander Matheson, on record as "chirurgion at Stornuay" in 1675, apparently the same who appears as "Alexr Mathewsone, chirourgion at Ferintoshe" in 1661 (Inverness Sasines, Vols. IV,

fol. 349; I, fol. 13). But whether he was *Mac Mhathain* or *Mac Bheathain* cannot now be determined.

132 In the Barvas baptismal register, under date 2nd December, 1814, the Rev. William Macrae writes the name of a child's father as "Donald McLeich" and then writes "Matheson" above "McLeich" without deleting the latter. The reason probably was that, under date 27th July, 1811, his predecessor, the Rev. Donald MacDonald, had already entered the same father's name in the register as "Donald Matheson". This illustrates the fact that an error of the kind, even when recognised as such, tended to be perpetuated for the sake of consistency.

133 *Ante*, Vols. XLII. 170; XXXIX-XL. 225 (note 31).

ADDITIONAL NOTE

For convenience, Murdoch and Dugald have been used as the anglicised forms of *Murchadh* and *Dubhghall* throughout, although in many cases Murdo (especially in Lewis) and Dougall were the forms actually used.